

October period, but this may reflect the pattern of observation rather than a movement of the species.

Grey Butcher-bird (*Cracticus torquatus*).—Occurs in and about the town.

Western Magpie (*Gymnorhina dorsalis*).—Noted in the town and on adjacent farmlands, often associated with Magpie Larks.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Distinctive Odour in *Typhlops*—*Typhlops* is a genus of small burrowing snakes which occur over a wide area of Western Australia. I frequently receive live specimens brought in by my students. All of the snakes have given off an offensive odour when handled, distinctive from that of all other reptiles known to me.

—R. P. McMILLAN, Guildford Grammar School, Guildford.

Sighting of a Yellow Western Rosella—On January 6, 1967, I called on a friend at Marbellup, about ten miles from Albany. While watching and photographing birds on his property we sighted a yellow Western Rosella (*Platycercus icterotis*) flying with three normal coloured birds. When it landed in a large tree I tried to photograph it but it was too fast on the flight.

From what I saw of this bird I would say it was a mature male; the colour was all yellow except the lower abdomen and under tail which were a bright red.

—F. NORTH, Attadale.

The Crab *Planes minutus* Associating with a Turtle—At the annual Guildford Grammar School excursion to Rottnest I. on November 20, 1965, one of the students found a turtle on Cape Vlamingh Reef. When we examined the animal a small crab was found under the carapace at the base of the tail. While we were dislodging the crab the turtle kept raising its tail which had the effect of pressing the crustacean to the underside of the carapace "verandah." This, and the way the crab "hooked" on with its legs, made the creature very difficult to dislodge. The crab, a female in berry, was identified as *Planes minutus* (Linn.) by Mr. John Lucas of the Zoology Department of the University of W.A.

The crab's association with the turtle adds to the examples of methods of passive transport of animals around the seas of the world. In *The West Australian* of October 30, 1965 a news item featured the discovery of a small crab, *Carcinus maenas*, in the Swan River estuary. It was mentioned that it might have been brought here in ships' cargo or by clinging to debris.

The ventral surface of the turtle was a very obvious white, the flippers had dark brown spots on them ventrally and the fore-flippers had sharp claws at the second joint. The overlapping scales on the dorsal surface of the animal were patterned with brown and black. The main feature of it was its very polished and clean appearance. Unfortunately the turtle escaped capture but was provisionally identified as a Hawksbill Turtle. Six goose barnacles were found in a clump on the costal portion of the carapace. I have collected Loggerhead Turtles in the vicinity of Carnac I. and Point Peron, all of which have had an algal growth on the dorsal surface of the carapace.

—R. P. McMILLAN, Guildford Grammar School, Guildford.